

September/October 2015

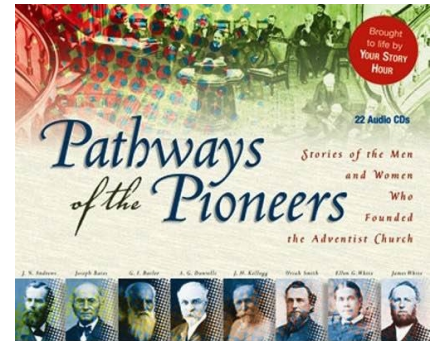
FOCAL POINT

Centered on activities of Toledo First Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pathways of the Pioneers

Hear how our church began. Invite friends to join you for ten October nights

Jesus asked people to follow Him (Matthew 4:19). This fall, we will too during Pathways of the Pioneers. Which aside from being the name of the ten-night series of meetings we will be hosting at the church starting TUE OCT 13 @ 7pm, is also the name of a series of Your Story Hour dramatized audio stories based on the lives of the faithful men and women who devoted their lives to spreading the gospel and establishing the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each story segment is between ten and eighteen minutes in length so middle school age children through adults will enjoy listening to them. With Pastor Mike leading the Q&A and small group interaction in between each segment, the two hours will fly by as you and your invited guests hear from history how God has led. So turn off the TV. Bring your favorite snacks. Or choose some provided free on the tables at church. And settle in with your family Orson Welles style to hear some really good news.



These memoirs will inspire, delight, and educate. The audio accounts begin with God's call to William Miller and includes the encouraging stories of other courageous young people like James White. Did you know this farmer and eventual scholar even studied Latin but as a child couldn't see well, so as a nineteen year old young man he re-enrolled in elementary school? Ellen Harmon was a teenager with a third grade education who couldn't even hold a pen in her shaking hands due to poor health. Did you know God used her anyway to point people through her writings to Jesus? Did you know the sea captain Joseph Bates not only had an encounter with the Sabbath, but also with a shark?

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Imperfection is the prerequisite for grace. Light only gets in through the cracks. —Philip Yancey

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July & August @ Toledo First

The photos above: Scripture reading, Chaplain Cozzens speaking, communion and benediction with hands raised, all happened during July. The last

photo shows just five of the workers (of at least 11) who completed resurfacing our parking lot in three days middle of August *Thank you, Jeff Batchelder, for taking and sharing your photos. ##*

<i>Calendar of Events</i>	SEPT 9	OCT 6	OCT 13	OCT 17	OCT 18	OCT 30
	Soup for You returns 6pm	Church Business Mtg. @ 7pm	Pathways of the Pioneers begins 7pm	Smile for Freedom, 5 & 8pm	Harvest Party 6pm @ UT - Int. students & friends	RingFest Concert, 7:30pm

Please support students and families

Education Sabbath will be on Sabbath, September 19, with Toledo Junior Academy leading out in the church service. Many of our students and their families are not from our church, so please be sure to be in attendance that day so that our visitors will feel welcome. There will be a potluck on that day, so please bring extra food and plan to stay and socialize with our guests. —Vicki Hall ##

Come to the Hayride OCT 10

The Case family invites you to the FARM! Bring a friend and come. Enjoy burgers and all the fixin's, a tractor-driven hayride, and cozy bonfire. No charge. Just come and enjoy - beginning at 6:30pm. Directions will be in your Sabbath bulletin. ##



Business Meeting OCT 6

Are you a church member? Then you have a voice at quarterly church business meetings. Come and help lead your church on Tuesday, OCT 6, 7pm in the Fellowship Room. Hear the latest. Help make decisions. ##

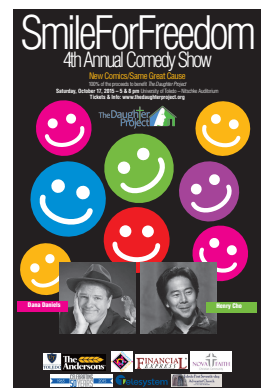
Smile for Freedom OCT 17, 5 & 8pm

The Daughter Project's annual fundraiser - a night of comedy now called "Smile for Freedom - helps to raise awareness of human trafficking and raises money to help girls have a chance at a better life.

The new comics this year are Henry Cho who has appeared on The Tonight Show and CBS' The Late Late Show. And Dana Daniels who has been on An Evening at the Improv and NBC's Comedy Club.

Toledo remains one of the most negatively affected cities by trafficking. Please help us combat this heinous crime by volunteering, inviting others, and by attending this annual ordinary outreach.

Please see Pastor Mike for free tickets while supplies last. ##



Sabbath Lunches at Church

SEPT 19 - Fellowship Potluck & SEPT 26 - Vegan Challenge; OCT 17 - Fellowship Potluck & OCT 24 - Vegan Challenge. ##

Pathways of the Pioneers

(continued from front page)

In between stories of divine intervention, when guardian angels protected speakers from angry mobs or miraculously provided for financial needs, these dramatized audio stories will also cover doctrinal topics like Salvation, the Second Coming, State of the Dead, Judgment, Hell etc. all in a narrative / musical / action oriented story telling sure to capture your attention.

We won't need study guides (though you're welcome to take notes or jot down questions) nor table leaders; but we will need people to set up, greet, and participate. Not for six weeks. Just ten days. All meetings begin @ 7pm. Hope to see you there! Here's the full schedule.

TUE OCT 13

WED OCT 14 (*Soup for You on hiatus until after Ringfest*)

THUR OCT 15

FRI OCT 16

We will skip SAT OCT 17 and support our annual human trafficking awareness weekend at UT featuring new comedians this year and new name "Smile for Freedom."

We will skip SUN OCT 18 and support the Toledo International Hospitality Program barn party at UT Student Union at 6pm and then resume "Pathways"...

MON OCT 19

TUE OCT 20

WED OCT 21

THUR OCT 22

FRI OCT 23

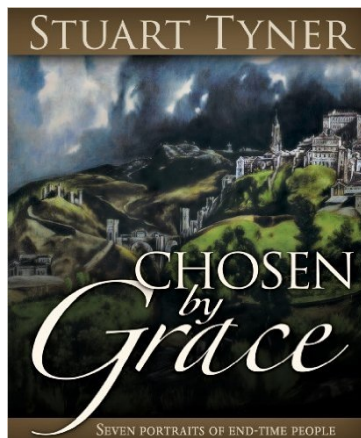
SAT OCT 24 (*That evening, anyone willing to stay to help Bill set up the sanctuary for Ringfest @ 9pm would be appreciated.*) —Pastor Mike ##

Soup for You begins SEPT 9 with *Chosen by Grace*

Romans 11:5 (NIV) says, "So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace." Obviously, the apostle Paul didn't think the words 'remnant' and 'grace' were contradictory. And neither does Stuart Tyner author of the book *Chosen by Grace: Seven Portraits of End-Time People*. Which is the name of the book we'll be discussing on WED evenings at Soup for You starting SEPT 9 @ 6pm.

We will be considering questions like: Is the biblical doctrine of the end-time remnant all about you and me? Or is it about God? Is it about our determined attempts to obey and overcome and somehow become "safe to save"? Or is it about God's active, zealous commitment to give us and every person in every nation and tribe the gift of salvation?

Over and over again, God has singled out a small group of ordinary people and given them an extraordinary mission—to draw attention to His everlasting love and long-suffering faithfulness. Join us! Or read along on your own. Cost of the book for Toledo First friends and family is \$5 while supplies last. Extra copies may be available in the church office. ##



Come to Fall Festival

Toledo Junior Academy will be hosting a **Fall Festival** at Toledo First on Sunday, October 4, at 2:00 pm. We will have games, face-painting, a bouncy-house, food, and lots of friendship.

Two years ago, we thought our Fall Festival would be rained out, and sure enough, it rained. But we held our festival anyway—with a bouncy-house in the fellowship hall, games in the school and daycare hallways, and food in the foyer, with grills, under tarps, right outside the foyer doors. In spite of the rain, we had a full house, and everything was a great success!

The purpose of our Fall Festival is not just to raise funds for the school, but also to bring awareness of our school and church to our friends in the community...and two years ago, that's just what we did. We met new friends who had never heard of our school or church before.

This is a school event that will require some help from church members. So if you can help in any way, please let us know. School people may be calling you. Please come, and invite all of your friends and neighbors. Help us to make this the best Fall Festival ever! Rain or shine! —Vicki Hall, Head Teacher ##

Bell choir hard at work

Even before school started our Bell Choir students have had intensive practices. They want to be ready when Bell Choirs from across the country arrive OCT 28 for RingFest! They'll practice together then and on Friday night present a concert to amaze!



Don't miss the **Festival Concert on FRI, OCT 30, 7:30pm.** ##

Will you be a friend to a University of Toledo international student?

Romans 12:13 (NLT) says, “Always be eager to practice hospitality.” And this coming semester, we have another chance to do so! There are many new international students coming from all over the world to the University of Toledo. Of that group, some students need extra help with English conversation practice and some will want to be matched with an American Friendship Family. Not to live with you. Just to be an additional point of contact and friendship during their time in Toledo.

You can invite them to church with you. Supper once a month. Or any other occasion you’re doing anyway. Additionally, the Office of International Student Services coordinates many intercultural programs to help international students learn about our local community, culture and customs and you can join them on those pre-planned activities if you wish.

Jackie, Josh, Lydia, and I are still Facebook friends with QQ (above right) and Chen (below left), originally from different parts of China, even though they graduated years ago. I will never forget that Christmas Eve sitting on the floor in our living room a few years ago when Lydia “read” them from her picture book the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus! If you too are interested in making new friends for Jesus’ sake and practicing hospitality this new school year, there are a few things you need to do first.



1. Fill out and return a Toledo International Hospitality Program (TIHP) application before SEPT 6 (address at bottom of form). Forms may be picked up from the foyer table at church.
2. Attend one of the American Friendship Family orientations (WED SEPT 16 @ 7pm; SUN SEPT 20 @ 3pm; or MON SEPT 21 @ 7pm at Emmanuel Baptist Church 4207 W. Laskey Rd., Toledo, Ohio 43623)
3. Plan to attend the Harvest Party at the UT Student Union (SUN OCT 18 @ 6pm; Park in Lot 13)

You do not need to be a member of Toledo First to participate in this ordinary outreach. Hope to see you there! — Pastor Mike ##

Known for helping

Recently we received a phone call at church from someone wanting to donate several furniture items that were left in a home the caller had just purchased. She said she phoned us because her sister told her that we “help the poor.”

That reputation can in part be attributed to the work of Haven of Hope which over the last several years has changed lives for the better. The workers - mostly our members - have remodeled, painted, re-wired, upgraded, and made over homes of those who could not afford to do it themselves.

Here is a recent letter from someone who received help.

“I just cannot thank you enough for the tremendous help you saw to it that we received from Haven of Hope. God bless you. We are able to do many repairs and

helped by purchasing a handicap commode etc. I will also be able to get a much needed wheel chair ramp to make ambulating easier for me. Praise God!”

Way to go, Haven of Hope! As you wind down, we salute you for all you’ve done in the name of Jesus. — DeLaura Caulder ##

*Thank you, God, for letting us see love in action.
Experience love in real time.
Hear love spoken in words that resonate sincerity,
And provide comfort, love being lived,
And love at its lovingest, the Cross.
Thank you, God, for Jesus.
—Adapted*

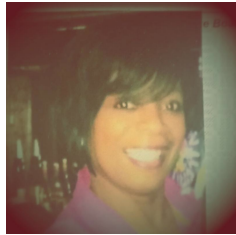
A personal testimony

The following is an email Pastor Mike received recently:

My name is Regina and I am a new Seventh-day Adventist follower. I want to share a testimony with you. I was on my way to service this past Sabbath day and I received a text message from my son who lives in Saginaw, Michigan. He was asking me to call him and without thinking I texted him back and stated, "I am in church." He then texted me back and said "Call me ASAP." I immediately thought, "Oh my gosh, he's going to find out I'm Seventh-day Adventist!" I did not want to share it with him because he can be very judgmental.

So after service, I'm driving home and it's on my mind to call; but what do I say? I was immediately reminded that scripture said, "If you are ashamed of me,

I will be ashamed of you" (paraphrased). Anyway, I thought, "I'm going to just call and tell him the truth." So I called him and he answered. The first thing he said was, "Mom! What are you doing going to church on Saturday?" I said, "Well, I'm studying with Seventh-day



Adventists and I really like it." He said, "Seventh-day Adventists—how did you get into that, Mom?"

I'm trying to explain and he is just repeating, "Oh my gosh, oh my gosh." Finally he said, "You won't believe....I'm Seventh-day Adventist, too!" He said, "I was not going to tell you because I did not want you to follow me and my beliefs." Then he said, "I can't wait to tell Stephanie" (his fiancée who he recently introduced to Seventh-day Adventist studies and is now also following the beliefs).

It was so funny he and I just laughed hysterically. The moral of this story is: do not be ashamed to tell others about the Truth and how God leads you to it! ##

Editor's Note: Regina began attending during the Spring "What the Bible Says About" series. She is meeting with Pastor Mike and studying for baptism, but that hasn't stopped her from organizing Visitation Sabbath. See Nov/Dec Newsletter for more about Visitation and Service Sabbath.



Ohio Constituents Ratify Recommendation to Sell Academy Assets

Ohio constituents voted at a special constituency meeting on August 23, 2015, to ratify the recommendations put forth by both Mount Vernon Academy Board of Trustees (MVA BOT) and Ohio Conference Executive Committee (EXCOM) to authorize the sale of assets of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation. Though emotionally difficult, constituents understood the severity of the financial situation, with 293 voting in favor of the motion and 17 opposed.

The Motion

To permit the "sale of all assets (real and personal properties) of the Mount Vernon Academy Corporation (MVAC), as well as consideration of disposition of conference lands and properties adjacent to and around MVAC properties, should such inclusion enhance desirability of said sale to prospective buyer(s)." ##
—Editor's Note: content is from a news release by Heidi Shoemaker on the Ohio conference website, www.ohioadventist.org. A full written report plus a recording of the meeting can be viewed there.

Third quarter communion

Our next communion Sabbath is set for October 10. May we all prepare our hearts and minds, show love for one another, and come solemnly before God for this sacred service. ##



Reminding again

Thank you for being part of the Evangelism Advertising project that was begun a few months ago, whereby we all can put money into advertising for the next evangelistic series. Advertising costs a lot of money, but without it, people are unaware of the series. And we know God wants people to know about His wonderful Gospel.

So once again, I am making you aware of our efforts to monthly turn in some money, aside from your regular offerings, and mark it "Evangelism Advertising." Ask God to bless your income with whatever He wants you to give, and please know that He will! He has commanded us to spread His Gospel, so we know that He will provide the necessary money to do so. Please have a part in this Gospel Project, and know that you are doing all you can to help Jesus' return to be soon. Thank you for all our help. God bless you. —Marion Thomas ##

All the sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.

September & October 2015 Calendar

Birthdays

- Sept 2 Dr. Burgess Bills; Shirley Smith
- Sept 4 Nicole Rieger
- Sept 6 Pastor Mike
Claire Jakubowski
Joyce Jenkins
- Sept 10 Vickie Wintersmith
- Sept 14 Glendon Cross
Joy Reams
- Sept 15 Jeff Batchelder
- Sept 16 Troy Leibengood
- Sept 18 Camile Sluder
- Sept 19 Pam Frey
- Sept 20 Shawn Flack
- Sept 21 Karen Conkle
- Sept 22 Andrea Orr
Elaine Mitchell
- Sept 23 Gloria Clark
- Sept 27 Emily Bills
Luann Ostrander
- Sept 29 Al Landeros

Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- SEPT 5** Sabbath School & Worship
- SEPT 12** Sabbath School & Worship; Circle of Friends @ 6pm
- SEPT 19** Education Sabbath—Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm;
- SEPT 26** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm

Sundays

SEPT 6 Deadline to return Toledo International Hospitality application

Mondays

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

Wednesdays - Church office open 9am-4pm

- SEPT 9** Soup for You begins @ 6pm; Study at 6:30pm
- SEPT 16** Soup for You @ 6pm; Study at 6:30pm
- SEPT 23** Soup for You @ 6pm; Study at 6:30pm
- SEPT 30** Soup for You @ 6pm; Study at 6:30pm

Thursdays

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30pm

Birthdays

- Oct 1 Megan Cross
- Oct 2 Dr. Steven Bills
- Oct 4 Mary Famulare
- Oct 5 Cathie Heath
- Oct 8 William Ashley
- Oct 9 Vicki Hall
- Oct 10 Denise Edwards
- Oct 11 Marshall Makley
- Oct 14 Pat Olenik & Greg Tary
- Oct 18 Bill Schulz & Olga Villalón
- Oct 21 Charlotte Flack
- Oct 23 Jean Kline & Kim Williams
- Oct 26 Wil Ashley
- Oct 29 Will Orlet
- Oct 31 Rose Cross



Sabbath Events

Sabbath School Sing @ 9:30am followed by classes. Worship @ 11am

- OCT 3** Sabbath School & Worship
- OCT 10** Sabbath School & Worship with communion; Hayride @ the Case Farm @ 6:30pm
- OCT 17** Sabbath School & Worship; Fellowship Potluck; visit Genesis Nursing Home on Whiteford at 3pm; Smile for Freedom (The Daughter Project fundraiser) @ 5 and 8pm @ UT
- OCT 24** Sabbath School & Worship; Vegan Challenge Potluck; Visit Elizabeth Scott Care Center @ 3pm; Pathways of the Pioneers, 7-9pm; prepare for RingFest
- OCT 31** Sabbath School & Worship; lunch for RingFest students, staff and workers

Sundays

- OCT 4** TJA's Fall Festival, 2pm
- OCT 25** Prep for RingFest

Mondays

OCT 19 Pathways of the Pioneers begins @7pm

Tuesdays - Church office open 9am - 4pm

- OCT 6** Church Business Meeting, 7pm
- OCT 13 & 20** Pathways of the Pioneers begins @7pm

Wednesdays - Church office is open 9am - 4pm

- OCT 7** Soup for You @ 6pm; Study at 6:30pm
- OCT 14 & 21** Pathways of the Pioneers 7-9pm
- OCT 28** Bell Choirs arrive for RingFest

Thursdays

- OCT 15 & 22** Pathways of the Pioneers 7-9pm
- OCT 29** RingFest - Bell Choirs learn new techniques

Fridays - Worship Practice @ 5:30

- OCT 16 & 23** Pathways of the Pioneers 7-9pm
- OCT 30** RingFest Concert @ 7:30pm

